

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 052350  
ORIGIN L-03

INFO OCT-01 ARA-06 ISO-00 SCS-03 SCA-01 SS-15 DHA-02 H-01  
SNM-02 NSC-05 JUSE-00 /039 R

DRAFTED BY L/SFP:LGFIELDS,JR:NMC

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SCS:AAGISE

ARA/AND/U-MR.R.PACE

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY LA PAZ PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 052350

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SNAR; BL

SUBJECT: AMERICAN PRISONERS (GOLDMAN AND RODENBERG)

REFS:A. LA PAZ 1740; B. STATE 49657

1. DEPT IS PLEASED TO LEARN THAT ARRANGEMENTS HAVE BEEN

MADE TO TRANSFER WILLIAMSEXTON RODENBURG FROM SAN PEDRO  
PRISON TO A PSYCHIATRIC CLINIC WHERE HE CAN RECEIVE PROPER  
MEDICAL ATTENTION FOR HIS ADDICTION PROBLEM.

2. THERE IS SOME CONCERN HOWEVER THAT GOLDMAN REMAINS IN  
SAN PEDRO PRISON INASMUCH AS IT IS VIEW OF DEPARTMENTAL  
TEAM THAT HIS CONDITION IS EVERY BIT AS SERIOUS, IF NOT  
MORE SERIOUS, THAN THE CASE OF RODENBERG. TEAMS' VIEW  
WAS REINFORCED BY MEMORANDUM PREPARED BY GOVERNOR OF  
SAN PEDRO PRISON, COPY OF WHICH WAS PROVIDED TO TEAM AND  
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PAGE 02 STATE 052350

LATER PASSED TO MINISTER OF INTERIOR DURING EXIT INTERVIEW,  
IN WHICH GOVERNOR IDENTIFIED RODENBERG AND GOLDMAN AS BEING  
CASES OF SEVERE ADDICTION WITH MENTAL AND PHYSICAL DETERIO-  
RATION REQUIRING TREATMENT AND CARE BEYOND THAT AVAILABLE  
IN PRISON. MOREOVER, IN PRIVATE CONVERSATION BETWEEN  
GOLDMAN, TEAM MEMBER FIELDS AND VICE CONSUL BLOHM, GOLDMAN  
CONFESSED HIS ADDICTION TO COCAINE AND PLED FOR ASSISTANCE.

HE INDICATED IN VIEW OF HIS DETERIORATING CONDITION AND COMPLETE AVAILABILITY OF DRUGS WITHIN PRISON, HE FEARED

THAT FAILURE TO PROVIDE HIM WITH CLINICAL ATTENTION WOULD INEVITABLY RESULT IN HIS DEATH BY OVERDOSE OR SUICIDE.

3. GOLDMAN'S FATHER HAS CONTACTED DEPT TO ADVISE THAT HE HAS BEEN INFORMED THAT NO ACTION HAS BEEN TAKEN WITH RESPECT TO HIS SON'S RAPIDLY DETERIORATING CONDITION AND THAT HE INDICATED THAT FAILURE TO GIVE PROPER MEDICAL ATTENTION TO HIS SON WOULD LIABLE BOTH U.S. AND BOLIVIAN GOVERNMENTS TO LEGAL CONSEQUENCES GIVEN THEIR KNOWLEDGE OF HIS SON'S CONDITION. WITHOUT ADDRESSING LEGAL MERITS OF GOLDMAN'S POSITION, IT IS IMPERATIVE THAT SEVERITY OF GOLDMAN'S CONDITION BE BROUGHT IMMEDIATELY TO ATTENTION OF MINISTRY OF INTERIOR SO THAT SIMILAR ARRANGEMENTS MAY BE MADE FOR TRANSFER TO CLINICAL FACILITY.

4. AS SUGGESTED IN REF B, THERE IS POSSIBILITY OF AN INTERNATIONAL CLAIM BY U.S. AGAINST BOLIVIAN GOVERNMENT FOR DENIAL OF JUSTICE. IN THIS CONTEXT IT SHOULD BE NOTED THAT GOLDMAN HAS BEEN IN DETENTION SINCE APRIL 18, 1975 AND RODENBERG SINCE DECEMBER 2, 1975. FACT THAT THEIR CASES HAVE NOT BEEN CONCLUDED AT EXPIRATION OF WELL OVER A YEAR OF INCARCERATION IS CLEAR VIOLATION NOT ONLY OF PREVIOUS NARCOTIC LAW BUT OF PRESENT NARCOTIC LAW AS WELL. MOREOVER, ARTICLE 7 OF BOLIVIAN CONSTITUTION GUARANTEES EVERY PERSON A FUNDAMENTAL RIGHT TO "LIFE, HEALTH AND SAFETY." BOLIVIAN FAILURE TO BRING

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 STATE 052350

THESE ALLEGED OFFENDERS TO TRIAL CONSTITUTES NOT ONLY A VIOLATION OF BOLIVIAN LAW, BUT ALSO CONSTITUTES A DENIAL OF JUSTICE AS THAT TERM IS NORMALLY UNDERSTOOD IN INTERNATIONAL LAW, CONSEQUENTLY USG MAY ASSERT A CLAIM AGAINST BOLIVIA SHOULD NO REMEDIAL ACTION BE TAKEN BY RESPONSIBLE BOLIVIAN AUTHORITIES.

5. EMBASSY REQUESTED TO BRING TO ATTENTION OF MINISTRY OF INTERIOR THE GOLDMAN CASE ON A PRIORITY BASIS AND URGENTLY SEEK HIS TRANSFER TO CLINICAL FACILITY TO AVOID POTENTIAL CONSEQUENCES RESULTING FROM DETERIORATING PHYSICAL AND MENTAL CONDITION.

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## Message Attributes

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**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
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**Disposition Date:** 22 May 2009  
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